

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A handheld body massager comprising:  
2           a transverse housing having a central axis and a massage region;  
3           a massage unit oriented within the housing for imparting a massage  
4           effect from the massage region;  
5           a pair of elongate arms pivotally connected to opposed transverse  
6           ends of the housing, such that the massage region is oriented therebetween, each  
7           arm having a handle to be grasped by a user and being pivotal generally toward and  
8           away from each other;  
9           whereby the user may grasp each handle to urge the massage region  
10          against a surface of the user's body.

1           2. The massager of claim 1, wherein each arm pivots about an  
2           axis, and the pair of pivotal axes are generally parallel with each other and  
3           orthogonal to the housing central axis.

1           3. The massager of claim 1, wherein each arm pivots about an  
2           axis, and the pair of pivotal axes are generally parallel with each other and are lying  
3           in a plane that is generally parallel with the massage region.

1           4. The massager of claim 1, wherein the massage unit is further  
2           defined as a percussive massage unit comprising:  
3           a motor transversely mounted within the housing, the motor having  
4           a rotary output shaft;  
5           a connecting rod having a first end rotatably connected to the output  
6           shaft at a location eccentrically spaced about the axis of rotation of the output shaft  
7           to cause a second end of the connecting rod to reciprocate as the output shaft rotates;  
8           an elongated rocker arm having a central pivot axis, wherein the  
9           rocker arm is pivotally mounted to the housing, the rocker arm being operably  
10          connected to the second end of the connecting rod;  
11          a pair of transversely spaced apart massage nodes, which at least  
12          partially project from the housing through a pair of transversely spaced apertures

13        formed through the massage region of the housing, each massage node being  
14        operably connected to the rocker arm;

15                wherein the massage nodes move toward and away from the housing  
16        for providing a percussive massage effect in response to rotation of the output shaft.

1                5.        The massager of claim 1, wherein the pivotal connection of  
2        each arm to the housing includes a clutch for maintaining an orientation of the arm  
3        relative to the housing.

1                6.        The massager of claim 1, further comprising a locking  
2        configuration for cooperating with the housing and at least one of the arms for  
3        selectively maintaining a pivotal orientation of the arm relative to the housing.

1                7.        The massager of claim 1, wherein one of the arms includes  
2        a power switch operating in communication with the massage unit for regulating  
3        power to the massage unit.

1                8.        The massager of claim 1, wherein each handle has a first grip  
2        portion and a second grip portion for permitting a user to select a desired grip  
3        orientation.

1                9.        The massager of claim 8, wherein the first grip portion of  
2        each handle is generally orthogonal to the corresponding second grip portion.

1                10.        The massager of claim 8, wherein the first grip portion of  
2        each handle is generally coaxial with the corresponding elongate arm.

1                11.        The massager of claim 8, wherein the second grip portion of  
2        each handle is not parallel with the housing central axis.

1                12.        The massager of claim 8, wherein the first grip portion of  
2        each handle is generally coaxial with the corresponding elongate arm, and generally  
3        orthogonal to the corresponding second grip portion, so that the user may grasp the

4       first grip portion of each handle to pull the massage region against a surface of the  
5       user's body, and the user may grasp the second grip portion of each handle to push  
6       the massage region against a surface of the user's body.

1               13.    A handheld body massager comprising:  
2                    a generally U-shaped housing generally lying in a central plane, the  
3        housing having a central portion with an inward facing massage region, and a pair  
4        of elongate arms, each including a handle at a distal end of the arm; and  
5                    a massage unit oriented within the housing central portion for  
6        imparting a massage effect to the massage region;  
7                    wherein each arm is connected to the housing central portion by a  
8        hinge for pivotal movement about an axis that is generally orthogonal to the central  
9        plane, so that a user may grasp each handle for urging the massage region against  
10      a surface of the user's body.

1               14.    The massager of claim 13, wherein the massage region is  
2        generally orthogonal to the central plane.

1               15.    The massager of claim 13, wherein the handle of each arm  
2        extends upwardly out of the central plane to enable the user to urge the massage  
3        region toward the user's lower back with minimal wrist flexing.

1               16.    The massager of claim 13, wherein each handle is generally  
2        orthogonal to the central plane.

1               17.    The massager of claim 13, further comprising a pair of lock  
2        members to releasably fix the arms relative to the housing for preventing rotation  
3        at the pivot joint.

1               18.    The massager of claim 13, further comprising controls for the  
2        massager located within at least one of the handles.

1                   19. The massager of claim 18, wherein the controls operate an  
2                   on/off feature and a variable speed control.